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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,598	06/18/2001	Pavitra Subramaniam	5306P033	1999

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EXAMINER

LU, KUEN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/883,598

Applicant(s)

SUBRAMANIAM ET AL.

Examiner

Kuen S Lu

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/23/2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Geary (U.S. Patent 6,070,160).

As per claims 1, 21 and 27, Geary teaches the following:

“receiving search criteria entered by a user” at col. 17, lines 23-29 and 62-66 by using search module to select input and evaluating selected items as search criteria;

“performing a single search on a plurality of databases for data records matching the search criteria” at col. 15, lines 5-9 by using a single search to identify commonly recorded information in unrelated fields of different databases; and

“generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria” at col. 15, lines 5-9 by identifying the commonly recorded information.

As per claims 2, 17 and 22, Geary teaches “receiving at least one search category” at col. 17, lines 62-66 by using a process to evaluate an item identification has been used a search criteria.

As per claims 3, 18, 23 and 28, Geary teaches “receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search keyword” at col. 32, lines 1-5 by returning a search keyword.

As per claims 4 and 11, Geary teaches "passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC) if the user requested the single search to be performed on at least one external database" at Fig. 10, elements 450, 453, 454 and 464, col. 15, lines 5-9 and col. 17, lines 29-33 and 47-51 by constructing system for single search, passing the search criteria to the index search module serving as the virtual business component, responding with a selection and returning research results.

As per claims 5 and 12, Geary teaches "passing the received search criteria from the Virtual Business Component to a search execution business service" at Fig. 10, elements 450, 453, 454 and 464, col. 17, lines 29-33 and 47-51 by constructing system for single search and responding with a selection.

As per claims 6 and 13, Geary teaches "using a search execution business service to search the plurality of databases for data records matching the search criteria" at Fig. 9, element 446 and col. 19, lines 12-16 by using index search service to search databases.

As per claims 7, 14, 19 and 29, Geary teaches "sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface" at col. 41, lines 8-10, 16-18, col. 45, lines 6-9, and col. 47, lines 35-40 by presenting output object to user through user interface and saving all records meeting the search criteria.

As per claims 8, 15, 20 and 30, Geary teaches displaying content of a search result selected from the search results listed on the user interface" at col. 34, lines 18-22 by showing the results of the current keyword search.

As per claims 9 and 26, Geary teaches "searching at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria" at col. 7, lines 31-34 and col. 15, lines 5-9 by importing documents and linking them as database fields before performing the search.

As per claims 10 and 16, Geary teaches "receiving a search category and a search keyword entered by a user" at col. 32, lines 4-5 by using Boolean operation on keywords in the input fields; "performing a single search on at least one database and at least one attached document for data records matching the search category and the search keyword" by linking documents as database fields at col. 7, lines 31-34, and then conducting a single search on databases at col. 15, lines 5-9; and "generating search results comprising of the data records matching the search category and the search keyword" at col. 45, lines 5-9 by saving the records meeting all search criteria.

As per claim 24, Geary teaches "a search adapter to adapt to a selected search engine and to generate search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria" at Fig. 8, element 404, col. 17, lines 26-29 and col. 20, lines 14-19 by using a search engine and performing the search.

2. The prior art made of record

A. U.S. Patent No. 6070160

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

B. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0147704

C. U.S. Patent No. 6401118

D. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0156779

E. U.S. Patent No. 6553310

F. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0138481

Response to Arguments

3. The Applicants' arguments filed on January 23, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive, for the Examiner's response, please see discussion below:

a). At Page 8, lines 9-12, Claim 1, Applicants argued "...Geary is directed to searching art...databases. ...the present invention is directed to a CRM system...".

As to the above argument a), the Examiner disagreed because Geary reference is directed to searching databases related to subjective works [Abstract of the reference, lines 2-3]. Refer to the Abstract of the "present invention", the "present invention" is also directed to searching. CRM is not a limitation to any claim in the "present invention".

b). At Page 8, lines 9-12, Claim 1, Applicants argued "Geary only teaches retrieving additional documents from another database that are linked to the search results in the database being searched. Geary does not teach or suggest the search reaches into the second database".

As to the above argument b), the Examiner disagreed because Geary reference teaches searching through databases [col. 7, lines 5-11]. The Examiner interprets "databases" as a plurality of databases, including the first and the second. The databases may contain the same kind of data as shown in databases A and B in Fig. 4.

Therefore, as best understood by the Examiner, Geary's prior art does teach multiple, or at least two databases.

As to claims 2-9, the Examiner applies the above stated argument.

c). At Page 8, line 21 through Page 9, line 1, Claim 10, Applicants stated that "performing a single search on at least one database and at least one attached document ... keyword" is required for the Claim 10. The Examiner noted, 'claim 11' at Page 8, line 21 should be 'claim 10'. The Examiner interprets the claim accordingly.

As to the above argument c), the Examiner disagreed because Geary reference teaches searching databases and attached documents [column 7, lines 29-36]. Regarding the documents are attached by importing as pointers in the databases, hence, the Geary reference teaches searching databases and attached documents.

As to claims 11-15, the Examiner applies the above stated argument.

d). At Page 9, lines 5-8, claim 16, Applicants stated that "claim 16 includes limitations similar to allowable claim 10, ..., should be allowed."

As to the above argument d), the Examiner disagreed because of the same stated argument for rejecting Claim 10.

As to claims 16-20, the Examiner applies the above stated argument.

e). At Page 9, lines 9-12, claim 21, Applicants argued that "claim 21 includes limitations similar to allowable claim 1,...should be allowed."

As to the above argument e), the Examiner disagreed because of the same stated argument for rejecting Claim 1.

As to claims 22-26, the Examiner applies the above stated argument.

f). At Page 9, lines 13-14, claim 27, Applicants stated that "claim 27 includes limitations similar to allowable claim 1,...should be allowed."

As to the above argument f), the Examiner disagreed because of the same stated argument for rejecting Claim 1.

As to claims 28-30, the Examiner applies the above stated argument.

4. In light of the forgoing arguments, the U.S.C 102 rejection for Claims 1-30 is hereby sustained.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

The Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2177

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is (703) 305-9601 for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 703-305-4894.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

KL

Patent Examiner

February 6, 2004


JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100